



GP117-03.UT

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yang et al.) Group Art Unit: 1648
Serial No.: 10/001,407)
Filed: October 22, 2001)
For: Compositions and Methods for)
Detecting Human Immunodeficiency Virus 2)
(HIV-2))
Examiner: Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Communication mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on November 12, 2003 (Paper No. 5), please consider the following.

An **Election in Response to Restriction Requirement** begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Appl. Serial No. 10/001,407
Response dated Jan. 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 12, 2003

ELECTION IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required that Applicant elect for initial prosecution an invention defined by one of the following five groups of claims:

- I. **Claims 1-24**, drawn to a composition for detecting HIV-2 nucleic acids comprising amplification primers;
- II. **Claim 25-30**, drawn to a method for detecting HIV-2 employing amplification primers;
- III. **Claims 31-42**, drawn to oligonucleotide probes;
- IV. **Claim 43-54**, drawn to a method for detecting HIV-2 employing oligonucleotide probes; and
- V. **Claims 55-56**, drawn to a kit for detecting HIV-2.

Applicant hereby elects Group V, Claims 55-56 for initial prosecution. Non-elected Claims 1-54 have been canceled from the Application by Preliminary Amendment, hereinbelow. Dependent claims that have been added by Preliminary Amendment incorporate all of the limitations of the elected claim set.